## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 42 [[1]], wherein said model tracks at least one of said components as a function of time.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 42 [[1]], wherein said model tracks each of said components as a function of time.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein said time relates to a stage of a life cycle of the collaborative relationship.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 42 [[1]], wherein at least some of said data includes a time identifier.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 42 [[1]], wherein said level of communication component comprises a communication frequency component and a communication importance component.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 42 [[1]], wherein said quality of interaction component comprises a cooperation component, a conflict component, and a trust component.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 42 [[1]], wherein said connectivity of social structure component comprises a first subgroup related to a structure of the collaborative relationship and a second subgroup of related to role dynamics of the collaborative relationship.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said first subgroup of components comprises a density component, a transitivity component, and a betweenness centrality component, and said second subgroup comprises a reach component and a fragmentation component.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 42 [[1]], wherein said connectivity of social structure of relationship component comprises a density component, a transitivity component, a centrality component, a reach component, and a fragmentation component.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 42 [[1]], wherein at least one of said components employs system dynamics.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein said systems dynamics incorporates stocks, converters, and flows within said model to change said components with respect to time.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 42 [[1]], wherein each of said components is assigned a relative weighted value with respect to a total value for all of said components, wherein said total value relates to said output value.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 42 [[1]], determining further comprises comparing said output value to a baseline value that is also generated by said model.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 42 [[1]], further comprising validating an accuracy of said model by comparing said output value to an exemplary value representing an exemplary collaborative relationship generated by said model.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 43 [[17]], wherein said model tracks each of said components as a function of time.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 43 [[17]], wherein said time relates to a stage of a life cycle of the collaborative relationship.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 43 [[17]] , wherein at least some of said data includes a time identifier.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 43 [[17]], wherein said baseline value corresponds to a representative lifecycle stage.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 43 [[17]] , wherein said level of communication component comprises a communication frequency component and a communication importance component.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 43 [[17]], wherein said quality of interaction component comprises a cooperation component, a conflict component, and a trust component.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 43 [[17]], wherein said connectivity of social structure component comprises a first subgroup of components related to structure of the collaborative relationship and a second subgroup of components related to role dynamics of the collaborative relationship.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein said first subgroup of components comprises a density component, a transitivity component, and a centrality component, and said second subgroup comprises a reach component and a fragmentation component.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 43 [[17]], wherein said connectivity of social structure component comprises a density component, a transitivity component, a centrality component, a reach component, and a fragmentation component.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 43 [[17]], wherein at least one of said components employs system dynamics to account for said function of time.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 28, wherein said systems dynamics incorporates stocks, converters, and flows within said model to change said components with respect to said time.

30. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 43 [[17]], wherein each of said components is assigned a relative weighted value with respect to a total value for all of said components, wherein said total value relates to said output value.

31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 43 [[17]], further comprising validating an accuracy of said model by comparing said output value to an exemplary value representing an exemplary collaborative relationship generated by said model.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of developing a computer model for a collaborative relationship between distinct entities, the method comprising:

a) collecting data related to the collaborative relationship from a plurality of sources within each of the entities in the relationship;

b) analyzing said data ~~and establishing significant features~~ to establish a plurality of components that indicate an effectiveness of the relationship;

c) creating the computer model having said ~~a~~ plurality of said components ~~integrating said significant features of the collaborative relationship~~, including components for level of joint work, level of communication, quality of interaction, and connectivity of social structure of relationship, wherein said model tracks both interrelationships between said components and at least a portion of said components as a function of time and said model generates an output value related to a condition of the collaborative relationship; and

d) developing a baseline value indicative of an exemplary relationship status by inputting exemplary data into said model corresponding to a time corresponding to a selected evolutionary stage.

33. (Original) The method according to claim 32, further comprising,

e) generating a target relationship value by assessing a target collaborative relationship using said model, wherein data related to said target collaborative relationship and corresponding to said components is input; and comparing said relationship value to said baseline value at said selected evolutionary stage to characterize said target relationship.

34. (Original) The method according to claim 32, wherein said baseline value is updated by inputting new data related to one or more of said components.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein each of said components of said model is a function of time.

36. (Original) The method according to claim 32, wherein said collecting is conducted by methods of data collection selected from the group consisting of: surveys, direct observation, questionnaires, focus group sessions, interviews, and combinations thereof.

37. (Original) The method according to claim 32, wherein said analyzing is performed by a method of analysis selected from the group consisting of: content analysis, egocentric network analysis, statistical analysis, sociometric analysis, network visualization, inductive analysis, comparative empirical analysis, and combinations thereof.

38. (Previously Presented) A method of developing a computer model for assessing a target collaborative relationship between distinct entities, the method comprising:

a) collecting qualitative data related to an exemplary collaborative relationship from a plurality of sources within each of the entities in said exemplary relationship;

b) analyzing said qualitative data to generate a plurality of components for the computer model related to said exemplary collaborative relationship;

c) collecting quantitative data related to said plurality of components of said exemplary collaborative relationship;

d) analyzing said quantitative data;

e) creating the computer model having said plurality of components integrating said analyzed quantitative data; and

f) developing a quantitative baseline value from the computer model indicative of an exemplary relationship status by inputting exemplary data into the computer model corresponding to a selected evolutionary stage, wherein said baseline value enables assessment of a target collaborative relationship.

39. (Original) The method according to claim 38, further comprising, generating a quantitative target relationship value by assessing a target collaborative relationship using said model, wherein said data related to said target collaborative relationship and corresponding to said components is input into said model; and

comparing said quantitative target relationship value to baseline at selected evolutionary stage to characterize the relationship.

40. (Original) The method according to claim 38, wherein said analyzing of said qualitative data is performed by a method of analysis selected from the group consisting of: content analysis, inductive analysis, social-network theory, comparative empirical analysis, and combinations thereof.

41. (Original) The method according to claim 38, wherein said analyzing of said quantitative data is performed by a method of analysis selected from the group consisting of: egocentric network analysis, statistical analysis, sociometric analysis, network visualization, and combinations thereof.

42. (New) A method of modeling a collaborative relationship comprising:

a) providing a computer model comprising components including: level of joint work, level of communication, quality of interaction, and connectivity of social structure of relationship, wherein said level of joint work comprises a joint work importance component and a joint work frequency component, wherein said model tracks interrelationships between said components;

b) inputting data relative to the collaborative relationship corresponding to respective said components into said model;

c) analyzing said data with said model to generate an output value; and

d) determining a condition of the collaborative relationship that is related to said output value generated by said model.

43. (New) A method of modeling relationship dynamics of collaborative relationships, the method comprising:

a) providing a computer model comprising components including: level of joint work, level of communication, quality of interaction, and connectivity of social structure of relationship, wherein said level of joint work comprises a joint work importance component and a joint work frequency component, and wherein said model tracks both interrelationships between said components and at least a portion of said components as a function of time;

b) inputting data relative to the collaborative relationship corresponding to respective said components of said model;

c) determining an output value of the collaborative relationship by analyzing said data with said model; and

d) determining a condition of the collaborative relationship by comparing said output value to a baseline value generated by said model.